



Urban League
San Diego County

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October 12, 2009

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

Re: Broadband Industry Practices (WC Docket No. 07-52)

Chairman Genachowski:

As the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African-Americans, we have long supported President Obama's objectives. We are concerned, however, over the FCC's statements and planned actions on network neutrality that we believe run contrary to the President's vision.

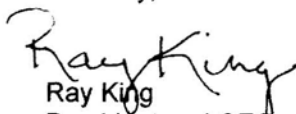
Like President Obama, we believe jump-starting the economy and creating jobs should be at the heart of nearly every policy decision we make. No where is that more important than in California – the engine of the American economy. Here, the economic downturn has disproportionately impacted minority communities, including African-Americans.

The Urban League of San Diego County stands with President Obama as he seeks to help the underserved and expand broadband so that every community, regardless of income or race, can benefit from it. President Obama understands that the underserved are too often left behind – particularly in a recession.

We believe the FCC's efforts to implement network neutrality – while well intended – will have the opposite impact on the Administration's goals of creating more jobs and helping underserved communities. The FCC itself has said America needs another \$350 billion in broadband funding to bring access to everyone in the country. But we see network neutrality rules causing the opposite effect. Imagine this negative cycle: the rules will cause carriers to pull back on investing; the lack of investment will hurt jobs, the quality of Internet service and carriers will begin to charge consumers more; with the greater price sensitivity in our community, many African-Americans will be priced out of the broadband experience. In short, all the recent gains that our community has made through increased broadband access and adoption will be negated.

We urge you to not act hastily on a net neutrality proposal that could be fraught with negative unintended consequences. Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,


Ray King
President and CEO